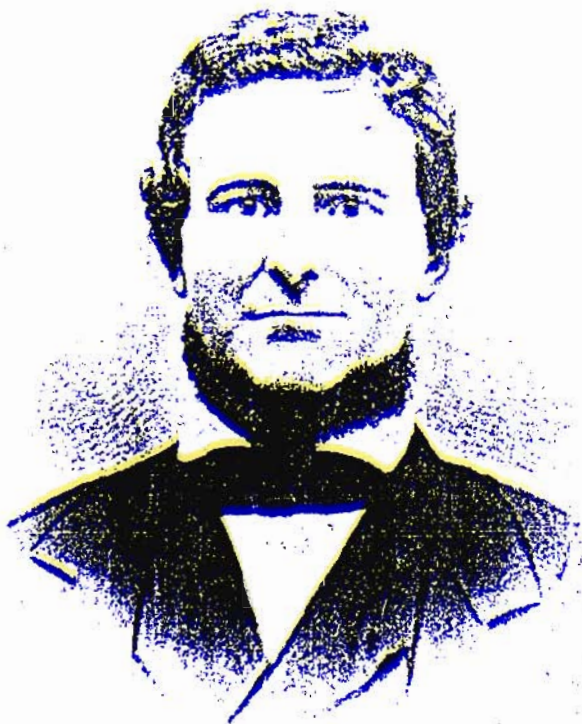


## A PIONEER STORY: Pennsylvania to Kansas - 1859



JOHN LEVI DUNHAM

Born Sept. 1, 1811, Windom Pa. Died Aug. 31, 1861

ZAC FISHER

TOWANDA, PA

Fidella Marty, of Ames, IA, provided this interesting account of pioneer life which was written down by her aunt, Mabel Dunham, who is still alert at the age of 96. It was written in 1986 & tells of the life of Henry R. Dunham (1838-1877)(8)(Deacon John 1, Rev. Jonathan 2, Daniel 3, Samuel 4, Haltham 5, John 6, John L. 7) & his family.

"John Lorenzo Dunham was born Apr. 1, 1873 on the Dunham homestead in Grant Twp, Clay County, Kansas. He died on this same farm 72 1/2 years later, on Sept. 2, 1945. His parents were Henry

Randall Dunham ((1838-1877)(8)) & Fidella Teed Dunham. He was named for his 2 grandfathers, John Levi Dunham & Lorenzo P. Teed. John was the 2nd child, his sister, Ethlin, being 18 months older. Henry R. Dunham was born Apr. 22, 1838 at Windham, PA, the eldest son of John Levi & Laura Melvina Cheney Dunham. The Dunham family moved to Laporte, PA, probably in the 1850's. When Henry was 21 years old, the summer of 1859 (2 years before Kansas became a state), he with his father (John Levi) & an uncle, Thomas J. Ingham, made a trip to Clay Co., KS. They travelled by log raft, railroad, river boat & ox team. A claim was preempted in Henry's name to a quarter section of land in what later became Grant Twp. A copy of the US patent to Henry R

Dunham is on file in the Register of Deeds Office in Clay Center, KS. It states that this 160 acres had been issued as bounty land to a widow of a soldier in the War of 1812 & had been assigned by her to Henry R. Dunham. The Patent was signed by Pres. Abraham Lincoln on June 1, 1863. The 3 men only stayed on the claim 2 1/2 months. After preempting the land at Ogden on July 15, 1859 they returned to Leavenworth with their ox team, sold the oxen & wagon, & took passage on a river boat going east. John Levi Dunham, a lumberman, (to page 2)





Great-grandmother Dunham  
Laura M. Cheney Dunham  
(1812-1894)

PIONEER - 1859 (from p. 1) was drowned at Laporte Aug. 31, 1861 while attempting to start a jamb of logs on the river. He lacked 11 days of being 50 years of age. With the outbreak of the Civil War Henry & his brother Benjamin enlisted in the Union Army (Co. K, 141 Reg. PA Vol.). Benjamin was killed in the Battle of Chancellorsville May 3, 1863. Henry received a commission of 1st Lieutenant Oct. 8, 1862. In a 2nd enlistment he was 2nd Lieut., later promoted to 1st Lieut. in the 30th US Colored Troops, Army of the Potomac Nov. 8, 1864. Henry was with Gen. Sherman on his march to Atlanta & the sea, & then northward along the east coast. He received his discharge at Roanoke Island, NC, Dec. 10, 1865. In case one wonders how this company of the Army of the Potomac became involved with Sherman's march, which started at Chattanooga, TN, Carl Sandburg, in his book, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, tells that Gen. Meade, Commander of the Army of Potomac, was ordered to prepare 2 army corps to be sent to the relief of Gen. Rosencrans at Chattanooga. Rail schedules were worked out with railroads, & 23,000 men, 700 wagons & 5000 horses were transported a distance of

1233 miles in 11 1/2 days. His discharge papers describe Henry as being "27 years of age, 5 ft. 6 inches high, dark complexion, grey eyes, brown hair." When John Lorenzo & daughters Mabel, Edna & Rachel, & his sister, Ethlin Dunham Heinen visited Laporte, PA in 1927 Mabel & Ethlin stayed overnight with Mrs. Frank Ingham, daughter-in-law of Thomas J. Ingham. John, Edna & Rachel stayed in an old hotel. This led Grandma Fidella to tell of her recollections of the hotel. She was visiting someone in Laporte (it could have been her sister or a friend) when a dance was held in the hotel as a "Welcome Home" to soldiers from the Civil War. It was a snowy night, & she had pulled some heavy stockings on over her shoes to go to the dance. While dancing with Henry, the hero of the evening, she became conscious of the fact that she had forgotten to pull off those heavy stockings. Fidella Teed was the daughter of Lorenzo P. Teed & Louisa Lewis Teed. She was born May 27, 1844, in Geneseo, NY. By the 1860's the Lorenzo Teed family were living in Milton, PA. Fidella attended the University of Lewisburg Female Institute & was graduated with the Class of 1865. Her diploma & a gold medal inscribed with the words "University Female Institute, Class of 1865, Fidella Teed," & on the reverse side the word "Excelsior" are treasured heirlooms of her descendants. She then taught school for several years. Fidella was a petite person with red hair & blue eyes. Henry R. Dunham & Fidella Teed were married Dec. 1, 1869. The spring of 1870 they went to Kansas, settling on the claim Henry had preempted in 1859. They lived with Mr. & Mrs. John Butler, who lived on the quarter section east of Henry's, while a house was being built on Dunham land. Lumber for the house was hauled from Junction City. On May 18, 1870 Fidella Dunham was granted a 2nd grade teacher's certificate in Clay County, & the same month contracted with the School Board of Dist. 10 to teach school for the sum of \$16.66 2/3 cents per month, the sum of \$50.00 to be paid on or before the 26th of Aug., 1870.

TO BE CONTINUED



RIGHT- This clipping, which comes to DD thanks to Ann Eldred, Verona, NY, has no date upon it, & since the age of the subject is not mentioned, there's no clue to the date of the clipping. We can only judge that it is from some time in the 1920's, as the scroll at the bottom of the portrait has the "look" of that period. Also, our Dunham Index failed to identify Harry B. Dunham. We found all too many HARRYS & absolutely NO Jerome Dunhams, so his father's branch is evidently not included. Can anyone help with this? We do wish to call the attention of Roy Dunham, Ashland, KY, to this article since his Dunham line begins (at this juncture) in Oswego County, NY -- the place where this Harry B. Dunham was born.

### WHO WAS MADAM NORDICA?

In IWD's section regarding Deborah Dunham Pease (1696-1790)(4)(Deacon John 1, Rev. Jonathan 2, Gershon 3), & more particularly, her youngest child, Reliance (no birthdate shown), who married Timothy Smith - the book states that "Madam Nordica is a descendant," although the children of Reliance Pease & Timothy Smith are not listed. WHO WAS MADAM NORDICA? We may have the answer to that question. The oldest encyclopedia in the house, COLLIER'S NEW ENCYCLOPEDIA (1921) seemed a good place to start our research, & sure enough, this trusty reference for individuals who were prominent some time ago, came through. Vol. VI contains an entry for Lillian Nordica, an American opera singer, as follows: "born in Farmington, Maine, in 1859; family name: Norton. She studied at the Boston Conservatory of Music & afterwards in Paris & Italy. In 1882 she married Mr. Gower, who died a short time afterward. She sang with great success in England, Germany, & on the continent, & was a favorite in her native country. Being very desirous to sing in Wagner's operas in Bayreuth, she went there & appealed to Mme. Wagner for permission to do so. This granted, she studied German & the role of Elsa in "Lohengrin," in which she made a triumphant appearance. MARGUERITE in "Faust" was another famous part. In 1896 she married Zoltain F. Dome, who had appeared for the first time in opera at the Bayreuth Festival in 1894 as PARSIFAL. (She) was a member of Hammerstein's Manhattan Opera Co. (1901). Married George Young, an American banker (1909). Died 1913 on the island of Java as a result of exposure from a wreck of the steamer TASMAN."

Unfortunately COLLIER'S doesn't include a picture of Madam Nordica. (We'll try to get one.) More unfortunately, it gives no clue to how Lillian Norton Gower Dome Young descends from Timothy & Reliance Smith. However, we do note that Reliance's next-oldest sister, Deborah (b. ca. 1729) married, in 1774, a Mr. John Dunham Norton. He has to have been a kinsman, wouldn't you think? However, his name appears only one time in our Index, on the page that shows him as Deborah's husband. Now we're wondering if Lillian might have been a descendant of Deborah & John Norton instead of Reliance & Timothy Smith.....



### DIED IN ONEIDA

Harry B. Dunham Was Former Resident of Syracuse.

Oneida, June 26.—Harry B. Dunham, a well-known Oneidan, died yesterday at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jerome B. Dunham of No. 6 Lake street. He had been critically ill for the past three weeks, the last few days lying in an unconscious condition. He was removed to this city from Syracuse about six months ago. He was born in Cleveland, Oswego county, March 19th, 1890.

Surviving besides the parents are his widow and one daughter of this city three sisters, Mrs. Mary Ruscher of Syracuse, Mrs. Anna Parsell of Oneida and Mrs. Rose Larrabee of Rome; also one brother, Frank C. Dunham of Kansas City, Mo.

Funeral arrangements have not been completed.

8/13/666 + 25 1917 Pitt. Herald 6-20-1917





LEFT - The name of Paula-Carol Alger is a familiar one to readers of DD, as P-C has submitted many items of interest & readily shares the results of her research with anyone working on related lines. Now we have this nice portrait of her, taken about 1974. She is the great granddaughter of Jesse L. Dunham & Emeline Coburn Ely, & resides in Derry, NH.

#### WHERE ARE OUR LEADERS?

In the November 1995 DD we broached the idea of forming a Dunham Family Organization for the purposes of funding English research, promoting reunions, & any other purposes such an organization might develop. Some have written to say, "What a good idea!" -- but no one has volunteered to lead the charge. For such an organization to become a reality, it would be necessary for those leaders to pop out of the woodwork. At a minimum, we'd need - say - 3 people

who could spearhead it, with time to give, dedication, & know-how. (We can provide a handbook that includes a lot of important details & will coordinate any responses.) EVERYBODY CAN SPEAK UP AT ONCE. No problem. DD will report on any progress in this matter, but we do not expect to beat the drums further regarding it. If the interest isn't there, it isn't.

#### A STRANGE MORTGAGE

From Dale Dunham Gaa, Greenwich, NY, comes this 1835 abstract of an unusual "payment plan" which she found in a Washington County, NY mortgage book. It concerns James Dunham (no dates known)(7)(Deacon John 1, Benajah 2, Rev. Edmond 3, Rev. Jonathan 4, Rev. Jonathan 5, Jonathan 6). James was the brother of Dale's direct ancestor, Nahum Dunham (1774-1832). "MORTGAGES. Abstract between JAMES DUNHAM, town of Cambridge, & DINAH PHELPS, widow of Daniel Phelps, of the same place. \$1000.00. Located town of Cambridge, west by lands of John Austin; east by lands of Ebenezer McLean. 160 acres. Dinah gets north square room & east bedroom of house lately occupied by Daniel Phelps during natural life. James will provide sufficient meat & drink either at his own table or in her separate room, at the election of said Dinah, with her washing, wearing apparel, nursing, medicine & medical attendance. Dinah will furnish her own bedding as long as comfortable, & when ceases to be so, James will supply. James is to see that her beds are made & taken care of. James is to provide her with a horse & wagon, with a driver & expenses when she chooses to visit her friends within 40 miles of her present residence. James will provide good fuel, cut & split & carried into her room, suitable for her fireplace. James to provide all things necessary for her comfort & convenience. James agrees to provide entertainment for the company of said Dinah in such style as she has been accustomed to entertain them. James relinquishes all claims to the furniture allotted to Dinah, which belongs to estate of Daniel Phelps. Dinah releases all claims to dower on estate & all claims to the residue of the personal property. If James dies before Dinah, she is to have her election either of her dower or to receive her support from the heirs or representatives of James. James agrees he will not (cont'd p. 5)



STRANGE MORTGAGE (from p. 4) alien the above real estate during the lifetime of Dinah. Any dissatisfaction to this agreement shall be submitted to Barber Williams & Nathan Skinner, their decision to be conclusive. 24 March 1835, recorded July 18, 1835." (We think Dinah Phelps was a lady who knew how to look after her own interests!!) Regarding James, here is what is known about him: He married 3 times: 1st, to Thirza McCulloch, who died in 1824 at the age of 31; 2nd, to Lurana Phelps in 1825. (Lurana was the daughter of Dinah Phelps, 2nd party to the above agreement.) Lurana died in 1835, shortly after the agreement was made; James' 3rd wife was Rebecca Sears. In 1838 James & Rebecca gave land for a church & cemetery in Cambridge, NY. Word is that James later settled in or near Chicago, IL. & that he had 10 children. Dale Gaa would very much like to find further information on James & his family. We wonder if the 1850 IL index & census have been checked. Or would any of DD's readers have additional details?

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#### 100-YEAR-OLD WEDDING PICTURE

Samuel Moore (1874-1965) & Cora May Stegall (1872-1924)(3)(Jonathan Dunham 1, Hannah Dunham Stegall 2) were married in Feb. 1895 in Galesburg, Knox County, Illinois. Cora & her mother had both been born in Knox County, but her grandfather, Jonathan, was born in 1825 in New York. The Moores' granddaughter, Frances Moore Sawyer, to whom thanks go for this picture, now lives in Gothenburg, Nebraska. It would certainly be a long-shot -- sort of "grab-bag" genealogy -- to suppose that Jonathan Dunham (b. 1825, NY) could be connected to the James of the page 4 article, but it might be worth checking. After all, James did have a lot of JONATHANS in his ancestry!

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